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MURDER A MATTER OF DEBATE TO LISTENERS

PODCAST BLOWS PAST FIVE MILLION DOWNLOADS ON ITUNES PAGE 15

Ticats make Alouettes eat their words

Oh-so-confident Montreal won't be headed to Cup finale against Calgary after all — that honour goes to Hamilton underdogs PAGE 22

Good Wife actor can't just fake stress — he must feel it

Matt Czuchry says charges against his character have strained him as well PAGE 16

Zoo struggling despite pandas

Cold and competition. Toronto Zoo has lost 300K visitors so far this year, about $8.3 million in revenue

Despite the much-anticipated arrival of pandas, the Toronto Zoo's revenues dropped $8.3 million from last year.

As of October this year, the zoo had nearly 300,000 fewer visitors.

The zoo took three major hits late last year: three star elephants departed for California in October following a bitter battle over their fate; Ripley's opened its doors in a prime location in October; and a brutal December kept visitors away.

By the end of this year, the zoo expects its net expenditures to be over budget by $368,000. But using a reserve fund bolstered by a profitable 2013, the zoo says it can mitigate any remaining shortfalls.

Lonely days at the zoo for Er Shun. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"The Toronto Zoo has performed quite well considering the fact that the first new major attraction in over 20 years opened late 2013 and, due to its nature, was in direct competition with the Toronto Zoo," wrote the zoo's chief operating officer, Robin Hale, in a report to be tabled at an upcoming board meeting.

The drop in attendance was also blamed on an overall decrease in leisure spending, according to several surveys.

This summer, Toronto Zoo's city board chair, Joe Torzsok, said he was still optimistic numbers could rebound after the zoo welcomed giant pandas Er Shun and Dao Mao midway through 2013.

There was also the welcome arrival of baby Humphrey, the polar bear cub who went on display in February.

But attendance still didn't approach last year's record.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Better days

The zoo had one of its best financial years in 2013, which saw visitors climb to 1.4 million and revenues at $36.8 million.

SWIFT RETRIBUTION

Pop superstar Taylor Swift mocks her ex-boyfriend-bashing reputation during her performance of Blank Space at the American Music Awards on Sunday. Swift, whose album 1989 sold more than 1 million units in its debut week, received the first-ever Dick Clark Award for Excellence. Go to metronews.ca for the full list of winners. KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

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‘Streetcar named desire’

Why do people have sex on public transit?

An expert says it’s all in the mind

MIKE DONACHIE
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A TTC streetcar heads east on King Street in this October 2014 file photo. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nobody knows the real reason behind some of weirdest things that happen on Toronto transit.

But one expert in the city has suggested the brains of those involved in last week’s streetcar sex incident might be to blame.

Underdeveloped prefrontal lobes could be the cause, leaving people lacking inhibitions, said Dr. David Wiesenthal of York University. But, he noted, alcohol or drugs are more likely.

Details are scarce in the aftermath of the downtown incident, although there have been no shortage of jokes about it on social media. Toronto Transit Commission spokesman Brad Ross nicknamed it the “streetcar named desire.”

Here’s what we know. At about 5:30 p.m. Thursday, someone on the packed 504 King streetcar complained about fellow passengers, ages still unknown, engaging in sexual activity.

Reports vary, but at least two people were said to be involved. Police investigators said there were three, a woman and two men, but the TTC has said no details of the incident can be independently confirmed.

The vehicle was stopped and the police were called, causing delays for people on the streetcar involved, and another one trapped behind it.

Quoted

“The message is: Please take it elsewhere.”

Brad Ross, spokesman for Toronto Transit Commission

But, if there was streetcar sex, the amorous perpetrators had fled by the time the cops arrived.

The prefrontal lobes Wiesenthal mentioned are the part of the brain that reach maturity in the mid-to-late 20s. They deteriorate in older people, he added, which explains why the elderly can sometimes make callous or unexpected remarks.

But, he said, public displays of affection are rare in transit systems because people exercise the same kind of self-control they do on the street.

Interestingly, people aren’t as good at controlling themselves in cars, Wiesenthal said.

He described a U.S. survey of university students, asking them about sexual behaviour in cars. About a third of male respondents said they had received oral sex in a car, and 10 per cent of women said they’d engaged in sexual behaviour in a car that was moving.

Often remote and rural areas were involved, however.

“Generally, I think people tend to view their own vehicles as one of the few places in the modern environment where they have privacy, meaning complete control over temperature, music, etc.,” Wiesenthal said. “Why they would engage in this on a streetcar, though, is puzzling. I wonder whether they had some spur-of-the-moment thing.”

Sexual behaviour on TTC

TTC spokesman Brad Ross said sexual behaviour on the system is rare, despite the well-publicized incident at Spadina station in 2011, in which a man and woman were charged after having sex on the platform and in a subway car.

“The message is: Please take it elsewhere,” Ross said, adding that TTC staff will call the police if people break any laws, sexually or otherwise.

There’s no live investigation by TTC in the Thursday case, he said, and a lack of criminal charges means the video footage on the streetcar won’t be downloaded.

But, there’s no doubt, people do “stupid” things on transit, Ross added.

Aside from criminal activity like thefts and assaults, that includes taking shortcuts across the tracks when it isn’t safe, and sneaking into tunnels to relieve themselves, risking that dangerous third rail that could cause electrocution.

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Crime

Police on hunt for shoe fetishist

Police are looking for a man with an apparent shoe fetish after he removed a woman's boot, peeled off her sock and licked her foot without her consent.

York Region Police say they're investigating two separate incidents involving a well-dressed man who appears to be in his 30s.

They say in the first incident, which took place on Wednesday, a man entered a tanning salon in Richmond Hill, smelled a woman's shoe and then fled with it.

The next day, police say the man went to another tanning salon and began asking a woman questions about her boots. Police say the man then allegedly grabbed the women's leg, removed her boot and sock and licked her foot before fleeing with the boot and sock. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health

Province to restrict e-cigarette use, says report

Hamilton TV station CHCH is reporting the Ontario government will move to restrict the use of electronic cigarettes, including banning their sale to minors.

Associate Health Minister Dipika Damerla is to make the announcement at a news conference Monday morning.

The station reports the use of e-cigarettes will be banned wherever smoking is already prohibited.

Cigarette smoking is currently banned in enclosed public places and all enclosed workplaces — restrictions that will be expanded Jan. 1 to include all restaurant and bar patios as well as at playgrounds and publicly owned sports fields. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Esoteric collection'

Rare jade to be auctioned

A rare collection of ancient Chinese jade pieces, some dating back 6,000 years, will be up for grabs in Toronto on Tuesday and are expected to "well exceed" their collective pre-sale estimate of $500,000, says A.H. Wilkens Auctions & Appraisals.

"We really don't see pieces of this nature come up very often any longer," said Andrea Zeifman, COO and senior appraiser at A.H. Wilkens, noting such a collection is usually held in a museum.

"It's a pretty esoteric collection because it's so old."

The nearly 200-piece collection comes from the estate of the late Irving Langleb, a Brooklyn-born linguistics scholar who moved to Japan after working in Asia during the Second World War. THE CANADIAN PRESS

An up-and-coming CEO – with a heart

Abi Smithson. 10-year-old sandal-maker looking to fill first order from Aldo

GILBERT NGABO
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At just 10 years old, Abi Smithson is CEO of her own company, the Love Sandal — or Made by Abi Inc.

The young Mississauga entrepreneur recently pitched her idea in a bid to get funding for Next Gen Den, the youth version of CBC's Dragons' Den. The show will air in January.

She's also started a fundraising campaign on Indiegogo in an effort to gather some $15,000 by early December.

This would help her fill the first order of Love Sandals with Aldo and set up distribution. The campaign has raised just more than $5,000, about 30 per cent of the final target.

Each of Abi's sandals has an open-faced heart cut in the top or on the side. Her inspiration, which came during a Girls Learning Code Inventors Camp in Toronto, was simple.

"I noticed my mom had ugly tan lines on top of her foot and thought, 'What if the tan line was a heart?'" she said.

Since starting Love Sandal, Smithson's been learning new things that have helped her grow as a person — and an entrepreneur. She's also thinking about an expansion into clothing and jewelry.

Professional designers from Aldo helped her sketch two types of sandals.

First there are the Hippy Chicks, which have a squishy cork base and are meant to be used for walking and hiking. Then there are the Beach Bums, flat sandals with soft straps and a foam base. They can be worn while walking on the beach.

The Hippy Chicks go for $49.99, while the Beach Bums cost $29.99.

Abi is also driven by a passion to help. She devotes 10 per cent of net proceeds to the SickKids Foundation.

"I just want to help kids feel better," she said.

She also gets support from Ryerson University's Digital Media Zone, which helps her access advisers and mentors. But no amount of support and constructive criticism can equal that given by her parents.

"We want her to succeed and serve as an example to other children," said mom Julie Smithson, insisting everything her daughter does has to be balanced with schoolwork.

Price tag

- The cost of Abi Smithson's sandals vary by style.
- The Hippy Chick goes for $49.99, for instance, while the Beach Bum costs $29.99.

Mississauga's Abi Smithson is breaking into the business world at the ripe young age of 10. DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

T.O. artist helps Marvel revive Howard the Duck

Howard the Duck first appeared in the Marvel universe in 1973. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Marvel is reviving a crass, drink-swilling duck from the '70s with the help of a Toronto artist.

The entertainment Goliath will be launching a new comic-book series based on Howard the Duck — an ill-tempered, satirical character from another planet who has a penchant for cigars and is prone to adventure. The character was teased in a post-credits sequence from the recent blockbuster Guardians of the Galaxy, but is still best known from a failed 1980s screen adaptation.

The forthcoming comic series, featuring Howard as a private investigator, will be written by Steve Murray, a Torontonian and former National Post illustrator who goes by the name Chip Zdarsky, along with American comic artist Joe Quinones.

Murray told Torstar News Service he wants the series to be funny, but also in keeping with the character's famous past.

"Hopefully it will live up to what has come before," Murray said. "There is certainly a lot of pressure with taking over a book that was beloved by a lot of people."

He said his interest in Howard the Duck was first sparked during visits to his "weird Uncle Fred," who had a large comic collection.

"Whenever I went to his house, those were the ones I would read because they were weird and adult in tone so they felt illicit," he said. "In Grade 6, I quite enjoyed the Howard the Duck movie even though I now recognize that it is terrible."

Murray first got involved with Marvel after he released an Image Comics series called Sex Criminals, which was nominated this year for an Eisner Award. The series also caught the eye of a Marvel editor, who enlisted Murray to put together some humorous, one-off covers for the company before Marvel asked if he had any ideas for Howard the Duck.

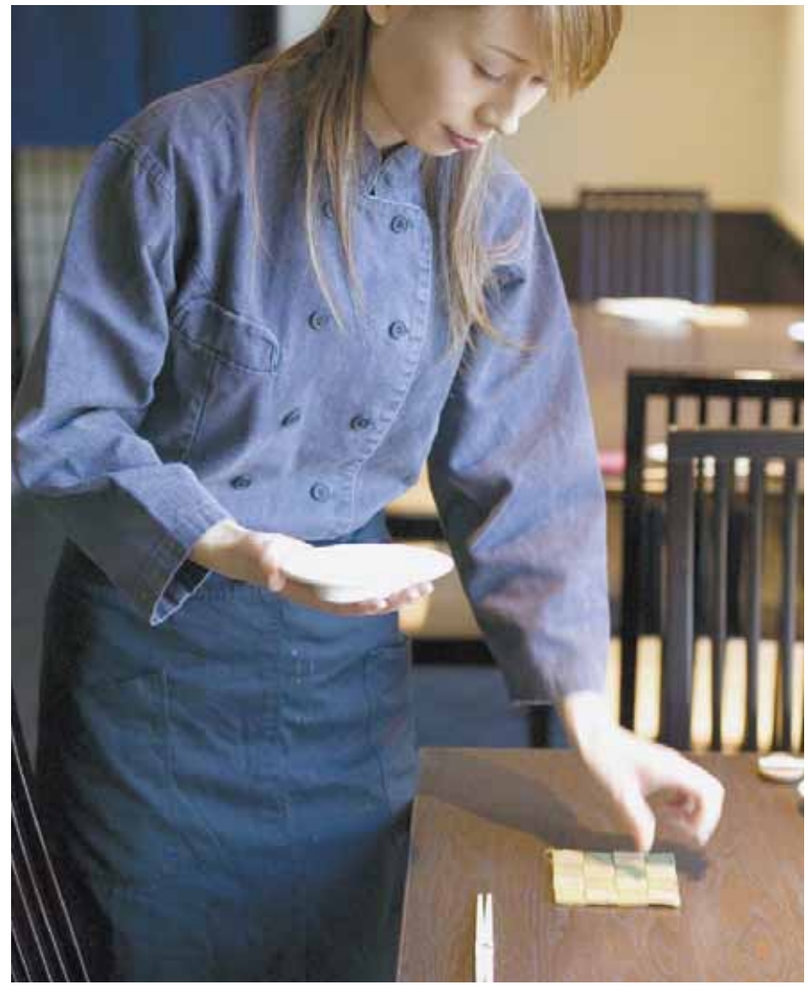
Since then, Murray has written Howard's first script and Quinones has begun drafting artwork to accompany it. Beyond that, the pair has only plotted out the first few issues. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"There is certainly a lot of pressure with taking over a book that was beloved by a lot of people."

Illustrator Steve Murray

IS MINIMUM WAGE ENOUGH TO LIVE ON?



More than a million people across Canada worked for minimum wage last year, many of them working in full-time jobs. For most, it's not enough to get by.

Let's call her Sara. Sara is a single mom, who works full time for minimum wage in Toronto. After paying for groceries, rent, and child care for her two kids, she has $5 left at the end of the week. Sara is just one of many Canadians who work hard every day, but struggle to support their families.

Full-time minimum wage workers in Ontario live 16% below the poverty line, and those numbers are echoed across the country. According to the most recent report from Food Banks Canada, 12% of people using food banks in Canada work full time. Since 2000, the number of Canadians working for minimum wage has doubled.

The labour movement has always worked for fair wages for everyone – after all, it was the unions that secured a minimum wage in the first place for working Canadians, along with decent hours and safer workplaces. More recently, the labour movement has been one of the most outspoken voices calling for an increase in minimum wage across the country.

THE STATS SUPPORTING THE NEED FOR BETTER WAGES ARE COMPELLING :

Nearly **1 million workers** in Canada need more than one job just to make ends meet.

More than **three quarters of all** new jobs in the last 5 years in Canada fall into the precarious or underemployed categories.

More than **2 million Canadians** are in temporary jobs, the highest on record.

GOOD JOBS SUMMIT

This fall, the labour movement organized the Good Jobs Summit, bringing together students, workers, researchers, policy-makers, government and employers to find solutions to the job crisis facing Canada. The summit highlighted Community Benefit Agreements, contracts that require development projects to address issues of equity, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability and local economic development.

goodjobssummit.ca

The debate isn't limited to increasing the minimum wage either: the labour movement has been campaigning hard for "living wage" policies across the country. A living wage is based on your standard of living rather than financial income – in short, it's the amount a family needs to earn to afford basic everyday expenses.

These efforts have succeeded in some communities: for one, in Westminster, British Columbia, a living wage policy was passed in 2010. That means that everyone who works for the municipality, or who works for companies contracted by the city, can afford a decent life.

It makes sense for municipal governments to support good local jobs. Household spending drives 54% of Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), so when people have good jobs and decent wages, they can contribute more to our economy. Putting money back into our communities benefits everyone – consumers and businesses.

Even so, the labour movement had to work hard to finally convince the City of Toronto to purchase its new subway cars from Bombardier, which has a plant in the same province, instead of purchasing them from a company whose operations are based in Europe. That decision resulted in 500 good jobs for Thunder Bay.

Helping employers and employees find innovative solutions to the job crisis in today's marketplace is also critical. The labour movement has supported a number of measures to address this: for instance, unions secured the implementation of a "third shift" at auto plants, which has reduced demand for overtime hours. In the event of a slow-down in production, unions have also negotiated work-sharing agreements that split the work hours between employees rather than eliminating jobs. And when GE Canada added 1,000 robots to its plant in Quebec, the union helped employees being replaced by the machines get the training they needed to qualify for skilled jobs elsewhere.

All Canadians deserve a good job – a job that is meaningful, safe and sustainable, and that allows us to support a good quality of life for our families and ourselves.

To learn more about how the labour movement is helping to protect and create good jobs across Canada, go to fairnessworks.ca.

CFB Petawawa. Soldier was a 'natural leader'

It was the call no mother wants to hear.

Anna Loveman received word Friday afternoon that her 27-year-old son, Kyle Sinclair, who was serving in the Canadian army at CFB Petawawa, had been taken to hospital injured.

Sinclair died not long after from an injury, after what the military has so far called an "unfortunate incident."

The Globe and Mail reported Sunday that Sinclair suffered traumatic head injuries when a seat malfunctioned while he was changing the oil in a Coyote patrol vehicle, but the Department of National Defence could not confirm this to Torstar News Service Sunday night.

Sinclair was found alive but unconscious and was rushed to Pembroke General Hospital, where he was resuscitated. He was transferred in critical condition to Ottawa Civic Hospital on Friday evening and died before midnight.

Sinclair "passed away surrounded by family and friends moments before midnight on the day of the incident," said Lt.-Gen. Marquis Hainse, commander of the Canadian Army, in a statement.

Sinclair, who held the rank of craftsman, was on a training program with the Royal Canadian Dragoons at the time of the accident, according to the Defence Department. His decision to join the armed forces in 2012 "kind of came out of the blue," Loveman recalled.

Loveman believes it was her son's desire to protect others that led him to the Canadian Forces.

According to a statement from Lt.-Col. Carla Harding, his commanding officer in the 2nd Service Batallion, Sinclair had an aptitude for the trades. "This technical competence, paired with his maturity, made him a natural leader amongst his peers," Harding said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"On behalf of all Canadians, Laureen and I offer our deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Craftsman Kyle Sinclair."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper

Maritime lobster levy faces more delays

Fishing boats loaded with lobster traps head from the harbour in West Dover, Nova Scotia on Saturday. A promise from the three Maritime provinces to have a levy in place before the end of the year to support a marketing strategy for the region's embattled, $1-billion lobster industry is facing more delays. The levy, first proposed in a report over a year ago, would see lobster fishermen and the onshore side of the industry such as processors each pay one cent per pound of lobster caught to cover the cost of advertising campaigns and other strategies to promote their product, which has been plagued by slumping prices in recent years. The levy would cost the industry about $2.5 million annually, the Maritime lobster panel report said.

PHOTO: ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS; STORY: THE CANADIAN PRESS

$200M. Military mental health to get more funds

The federal government has announced $200 million over six years to support mental health needs of military members, veterans and their families.

The Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces also announced Sunday that an additional $16.7 million in ongoing funds will be available to support forces members, veterans, and their families.

Veterans Affairs Minister Julian Fantino told a news conference in Halifax that some of the money will fund completely digitizing the health records of all serving personnel, investing in brain imaging technology and extending access to Military Family Resource Centres.

"We will continue to focus on reducing the administration burden on veterans and their families while improving frontline services and medical support," he said at HMC Dockyard. THE CANADIAN PRESS

11-year-old in custody

More arrests at pipeline protest

At least a dozen protesters, including an 11-year-old girl, were taken into custody Sunday on a mountain near Vancouver as a demonstrations continued against a controversial pipeline project.

Dozens have been arrested since Thursday, when the RCMP began enforcing a court injunction ordering protesters to clear a pair of work sites on Burnaby Mountain, where Kinder Morgan is conducting drilling and survey work related to the proposed expansion of its Trans Mountain pipeline.

The 11-year-old girl and her mother crossed a police line after announcing their plan to do so to supporters. Others were arrested after making similar pronouncements and proceeding past RCMP officers.

Anti-pipeline activists set up an encampment on Burnaby Mountain in September in an attempt to block Kinder Morgan crews from accessing the area.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Majority of Canadians back Iraq mission: Poll

Forum Research Poll. 66 per cent of voters agree with the Canadian effort to combat ISIL militants

About two-thirds of Canadians support the mission in Iraq and consider the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) a threat to Canada that must be confronted overseas, a new poll says.

Days after Canada's third bombing mission destroyed a warehouse and training ground in northern Iraq, a Forum Research poll found 66 per cent of voters agree with the Canadian effort to combat ISIL. Our contribution to this war effort includes bombing missions by six CF-18 fighter jets.

The survey found that 30 per cent do not agree with the mission — a position mirrored by 40 per cent of voters aged 18-34, and 37 per cent of those polled in Quebec.

The poll also discovered more Canadians agree that ISIL poses a direct threat to Canada today (67 per cent) than did in a September poll (56 per cent).

About two thirds of voters support the claim that ISIL must be combatted in Iraq to stop the group from spreading into Canada. A strong majority of Canadians — 70 per cent — believe the country needs tougher anti-terrorism laws.

Of those polled, 72 per cent agree that Canadians deemed "high risk,"who might travel abroad to participate in jihadist movements, should have their passports revoked. And 86 per cent agree that such individuals should not be allowed back into Canada once they have left.

Forum put Ben Franklin's famous adage to voters: "Those who give up their freedom for security deserve neither freedom nor security." Less than half — 45 per cent — agree with Franklin, a quarter do not and just under one-third have no opinion on the statement.

Forum said its results are accurate plus or minus three percentage points, 19 times out of 20. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians voice opinions

- Voters were evenly divided on whether attacks on Cpl. Nathan Cirillo and Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent justified Canada's involvement in the U.S.-led mission in Iraq.
- The poll was taken by telephone using an interactive voice response survey on Nov. 19 and 20. The sample was made up of a random selection of 1,500 Canadians aged 18 and older.

Unused funding for veterans 'not lost': Fantino

Veterans Affairs Minister Julian Fantino THE CANADIAN PRESS

Veterans Affairs Minister Julian Fantino said Sunday the department's $1.1 billion dollars in unused funding over seven years is "not lost money."

The department was unable to spend more than $1.1 billion of its budget over seven years, and like other departments that are unable to spend their appropriation within the budget year, Veterans Affairs was required to return its unspent funds to the treasury.

But Fantino told a news conference in Halifax that the funding is recycled back into programs for veterans.

"That has taken on a life of its own. It's totally false in the context that it's been portrayed," said Fantino of the lapsed funding at a news conference announcing $200 million over six years to support mental health needs of military members.

Earlier this week, veterans groups were demanding a detailed accounting of which programs had lapsed funding and why. They also accused Ottawa of using it as a deliberate strategy to balance the federal budget.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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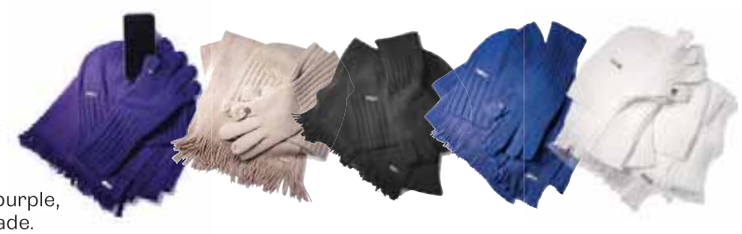

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NE114G214

Police stand guard during a demonstration outside the Ferguson Police Department, Sunday in Ferguson, Mo. Ferguson and the St. Louis region are on edge in anticipation of the announcement by a grand jury whether to criminally charge officer Darren Wilson in the killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown. DAVID GOLDMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ferguson awaits grand jury word

Residents on edge. Several businesses have put boards on their windows

Anxiety and speculation mounted Sunday in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson as residents awaited a decision by a grand jury on whether to indict a white police officer in the shooting death of an unarmed black 18-year-old.

More than 3-1/2 months have passed since police Officer Darren Wilson killed Michael Brown after a confrontation in the middle of a street in Ferguson. The shooting triggered riots and looting, and police responded with armoured vehicles and tear gas.

The incident reignited debate over how police deal with young black men, and drew attention to racial tensions simmering in U.S. communities four decades after the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Two-thirds of Ferguson's residents are black but the police force is almost entirely white.

Many in the St. Louis area thought a grand jury decision on whether to charge Wilson with a crime would be announced Sunday, based partly on a stepped-up police presence in the preceding days, including the setting up of barricades around the justice centre where the panel was meeting.

The grand jurors met Friday but apparently didn't reach a decision, and they were widely expected to reconvene on Monday, though there was no official confirmation of that.

Grand juries, composed of regular citizens, determine only whether probable cause exists to indict a suspect. If the jury indicts Wilson, a separate trial will be held to decide whether to convict or acquit him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

28 dead

Kenyan deputy pres. condemns extremist killings

Kenya's deputy president Sunday denounced the killing of 28 bus passengers by Islamic extremists and said the nation's military responded by killing more than 100 militants in Somalia.

William Ruto, speaking on a national broadcast, said Kenya is a target of international terrorist groups, including Somalia's al-Shabab, which is linked to al-Qaida. He said Kenya's security forces will protect citizens, including by raiding mosques.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran. Muslim clerics meet to counter extremists

Shiite and Sunni clerics from about 80 countries are gathering in Iran's holy city of Qom to develop a strategy to combat extremists including the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which has captured large parts of Iraq and Syria.

Ayatollah Nasser Makarem Shirazi, the chief organizer of the conference, appealed for consensus among Islam's two main branches, urging them to expose extremist ideology as absurd and to discredit groups espousing it.

Other speakers at the two-day conference blamed the U.S. and Israel for the creation of ISIL, saying it was formed to position "Islam against Islam."

Participants sit in an anti-extremism conference on Sunday in the city of Qom, 125 kilometres south of Iran's capital of Tehran. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISIL is widely seen as a threat to Islam because it resorts to barbarism and brutal massacres in the name of the religion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Anti-corruption rules may hurt economy

New federal rules that threaten to ban companies convicted of crimes from public contracts could kill jobs and hurt the Canadian economy, warns a study conducted for a powerful business group.

The report lists the potential consequences of Ottawa's so-called integrity framework, a measure strengthened last spring to disqualify would-be suppliers busted in Canada or abroad for offences such as fraud, bribery and extortion.

The companies would face a 10-year ban, or debarment, from vying for the often-lucrative procurement deals offered through the government's primary contracting department: Public Works.

But such bans would not only inflict damage on suspended firms, they also risk "far-reaching harm" on Canada's economy, says the study, commissioned by the Canadian Council of Chief Executives.

The report was one of two research documents the council forwarded to Public Works last week. The department says its officials are reviewing both reports.

"Debarment imposes a direct cost on the debarred firms, but also on innocent parties and society at large," says the report, which explores the potential economic effects of the framework.

The analysis explored possible scenarios, concluding that annual sales for a typical disqualified company would drop by $351 million and force it to fire more than 400 Canadian workers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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From left, Grade 11 student Doris Do, Jennifer Reynolds, CEO of Women In Capital Markets, and Grade 10 student Susan Sun during SheBiz. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Getting girls to lean in

SheBiz. Daylong event had women in business teaching teen girls about possible leadership opportunities to pursue

Last week, Doris Do didn't know what a consultant was.

Today she knows — and she might even want to be one someday.

She likes what she's heard about what the profession has to offer — namely, the potential for travel, moving up the corporate ladder, and the pay. "It sounds really interesting," the Grade 11 student at Harbord Collegiate Institute says.

Susan Sun, a Grade 10 student at Bishop Allen Academy, thinks she may want to be a lawyer, but she also enjoys math and science. Now she knows her broad range of interests could easily lend itself to a career in business. "I see how I could even switch careers," she said. "It feels flexible and open."

Do and Sun were among more than 300 high school students — girls in Grades 9 to 11 — who attended SheBiz on Friday.

National conversation

This year's event comes amid a national conversation about boosting the profile of women in Canadian business. In mid-October, Canada's biggest stock market regulators issued new rules requiring public companies to explain how many women they have on their boards and in executive roles, as well as what they are doing to recruit them. The Ontario Securities Commission spearheaded the initiative.

At the daylong event, held at the Desautels Hall at the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, girls learned about careers in business, especially in fields such as consulting, accounting, finance and technology.

They listened to guest speakers, worked through a case study and played a trading game that teaches about finance and the stock market. Most importantly, they learned about the business world from women who are already working in it. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Owned by billionaire

Airline taking back pilots' $4,000 Christmas bonuses

Pilots from Island Air were probably pretty happy when they got a $4,000 US Christmas bonus — that is, until the airline wanted the money back.

The regional airline owned by billionaire Larry Ellison said it paid the bonuses prematurely in October.

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported Saturday that the company plans to take payroll action to recover the erroneous payments. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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VOICES

UBER RESERVATIONS

While Uber has opened up a level of service previously unimaginable with traditional cab companies, the company's portrait of itself as a cool-cat upstart that The Man wants to squelch isn't in line with reality

MATT ELLIOT
toronto@metronews.ca

I've never had great luck with Toronto cabs.

Way too often, I've found myself standing past midnight on a bitterly cold street corner, trying to find a cab driver who will gladly accept a debit or credit card — who won't tell me his machine is broken.

As a result, I've become a big fan of apps that allow customers to both hail a cab and pay the fare with their smartphone. Up until they ceased operations earlier this month, I was an avid user of Hailo. I've since switched to Uber, despite some concerns about the company's reputation.

I like the service. But even as an Uber user, I won't rush to the company's defence following news that the City of Toronto is seeking a legal injunction that would force Uber to cease operations.

Uber seems to want to paint this conflict as a simple case of stodgy government bureaucrats clamping down on a popular, modern service.

Its website accuses the city and the taxi industry of "trying to stifle competition and protect their monopoly on Toronto's streets." But many of the city's concerns seem valid.

Transportation staff are worried that Uber vehicles aren't always subject to the same driver training, inspections and insurance as the rest of the industry. And they're concerned about Uber employing "surge pricing" that could put the price of rides above set fare regulations.

In fact, point to a random section of the city's taxi bylaws and odds are Uber is breaking them. The company tries to dispute this by calling itself a "ride-share" company instead of a taxi service, but that fig leaf isn't very convincing.

Ignoring this conflict can't be an option. The city didn't adopt a set of rules and regulations for the taxi industry just for the fun of it. And it plainly would be unfair to existing cab drivers and dispatch companies to force them to comply with regulations while Uber gets to do whatever it wants. But simply running Uber out of town isn't much of a solution, either. There's clearly a value to the kind of service it's offering. If there wasn't, people wouldn't use it.

This leaves the city with two paths forward. The first is to tear down the regulations and make for a more competitive and less regulated market. The second is to leave most of their regulations in place and instead, clearly define what kind of service Uber and its competitors can offer within the context of city bylaws.

Neither is a simple solution, but then this isn't a simple problem. As much as I loathe the idea of returning to nights of cold street corners and cab drivers demanding cash only, city hall can't ignore that Uber breaks the rules just because people like it.

Uber vs. city suits

Uber seems to want to paint this conflict as a simple case of stodgy government bureaucrats clamping down on a popular, modern service.

Your City

Baby, it's cute outside!

Photo submitted by reader Dylan Tomlin

Isla Tomlin, 19 months, tests out her first pair of skates Sunday with her dad, Dylan, at Nathan Phillips Square.

Toronto opened 15 of its outdoor skating rinks over the weekend, with its 36 other outdoor rinks slated to open on Nov. 29.

Nathan Phillips Square is likely to draw big crowds on Saturday, with the lighting of its iconic Christmas tree and annual fireworks celebration set for 7 p.m. CONTRIBUTED

SEE YOUR SHOT HERE: Send us high-quality snaps of your Toronto to readers@metronews.ca

Letters

RE: High Time for an Update column, published Nov. 19, 2014

A recent article in your paper sparked talk around our office here at Children of the Street Society. (We) provide free education in B.C. schools about forced prostitution of minors for students (from) grades 5, up to Grade 12.

Sexual exploitation and human trafficking can be a very sensitive topic for some and because of that we believe that teachers should not be responsible for providing this education, primarily because they are not trained to do so. Nor are they trained on how to deal with any disclosures that may come after education of this nature.

A question of responsibility

We believe that teachers should not be responsible for providing this education, primarily because they are not trained to do so.

Kev Lescisin, Children of the Street Society

Instead organizations like ourselves, using a youth-to-youth model, should be funded provincewide as a safe resource to educate the young people. This type of education needs to be age-appropriate and needs to be done in a manner that is relevant for youth. Although we get this conversation started in the classroom, parents also need to be involved in their kids' lives.

What we as a society need to realize is this: Pimps and traffickers are getting to youth as young as possible; the average age of entry into the sex trade in Canada is 13 years old. Is it not important that we give this information to youth, in a healthy and safe manner, before the predators do? We need to discuss sexual exploitation and human trafficking with students as young as possible to give them the tools they need to make informed decisions as they go on in life. **Kev Lescisin, program co-ordinator at Children of the Street Society, Coquitlam, B.C.**

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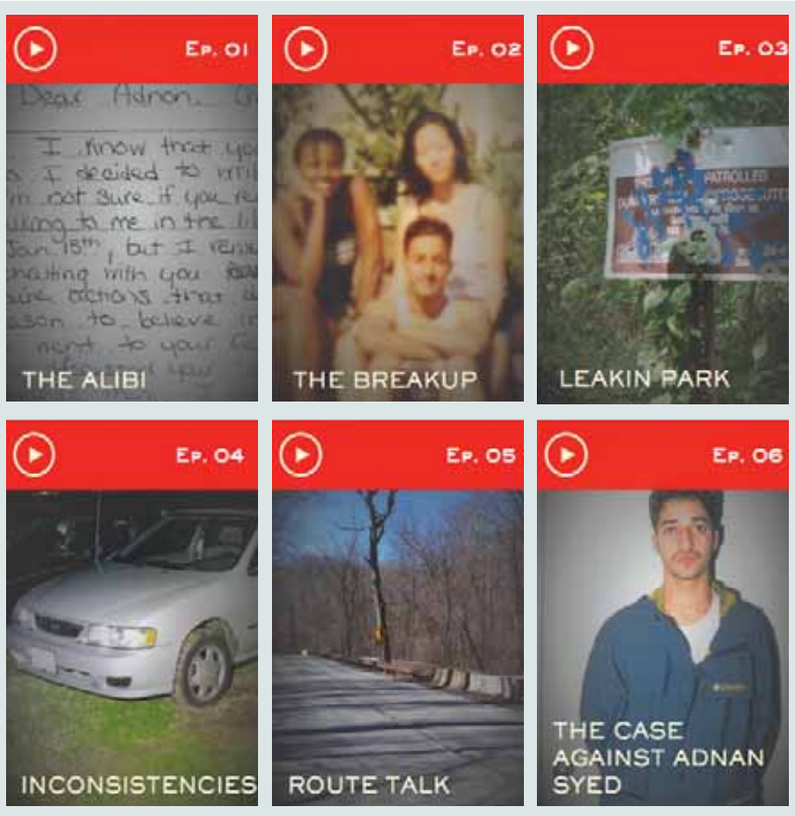
Teen lovers' murder mystery captivates the world by podcast

Online. Passionate fans debate weekly series that casts doubt on guilt of Maryland teen jailed for killing and burying girlfriend



Episodes of the Serial podcast are available on iTunes and at serialpodcast.org. SCREENSHOT: SERIALPODCAST.ORG

For 15 years, nobody outside Maryland cared much about the murder of a South Korean-born high school teen, supposedly at the hands of her ex-boyfriend, the son of Pakistani immigrants.

Now, it seems, everyone does. The perplexing tale of Hae Min Lee and Adnan Syed is at the heart of Serial, an hour-long weekly podcast that's become an unlikely global Internet phenomenon.

Fans speak of being "addicted" and "obsessed" with the program. Those who caught the bug early can't wait for Thursdays, when fresh installments drop. Latecomers binge on past episodes.

It's been downloaded more than five million times from Apple's iTunes store, where it's a Top 10 hit in the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia, India, South Africa and Germany. It can also be heard on the show's website at serialpodcast.org.

Between episodes, chatter rages on social media. Reddit hosts an exhaustive Serial discussion board. Bloggers speculate who's telling the truth — and who might not be.

Serial is a spinoff from This American Life, a long-running U.S. public radio series that's famous for its quirky topics and laid-back storytelling style.

Its runaway success — as a podcast, no less — has taken its creators by surprise.

"We kind of expected to be in the sleepier realms of the podcast world," says senior producer Julie Snyder. "We were hoping for good numbers. But we were not at all expecting so many people listening and writing about the show, and having a lot of interest about the show. And it's international. We didn't plan for that at all."

Serial comes across as part investigative journalism, part police procedural, part soap opera, with a nod to the 19th-century serialized novels of Charles Dickens and Emile Zola.

Hae and Adnan — everyone in Serial is called by their first name by narrator and journalist Sarah Koenig — are high school sweethearts who keep their love a secret from their conservative immigrant families. In the opening episodes, both come across as bright all-American teenagers — popular, getting good grades, holding down part-time jobs, looking forward to prom night.

But when romance turns to breakup, Adnan, overcome by anger, strangles Hae and, with a pal, buries her in a shallow grave, where a passerby finds her three weeks later.

At least, that's the version prosecutors gave jurors at a six-week trial that ended with Adnan getting a life sentence in a Maryland penitentiary, where he remains at the age of 32.

Koenig revisits the case in forensic detail — interviewing witnesses who sometimes contradict themselves, pursuing neglected leads, chatting regularly by phone with the imprisoned Adnan, who maintains he is innocent.

It's unclear whether Serial might turn up fresh material to compel judicial authorities to reopen the case — but Snyder says that's not the point.

"We've said from the beginning that we don't know where it's going to end," she added.

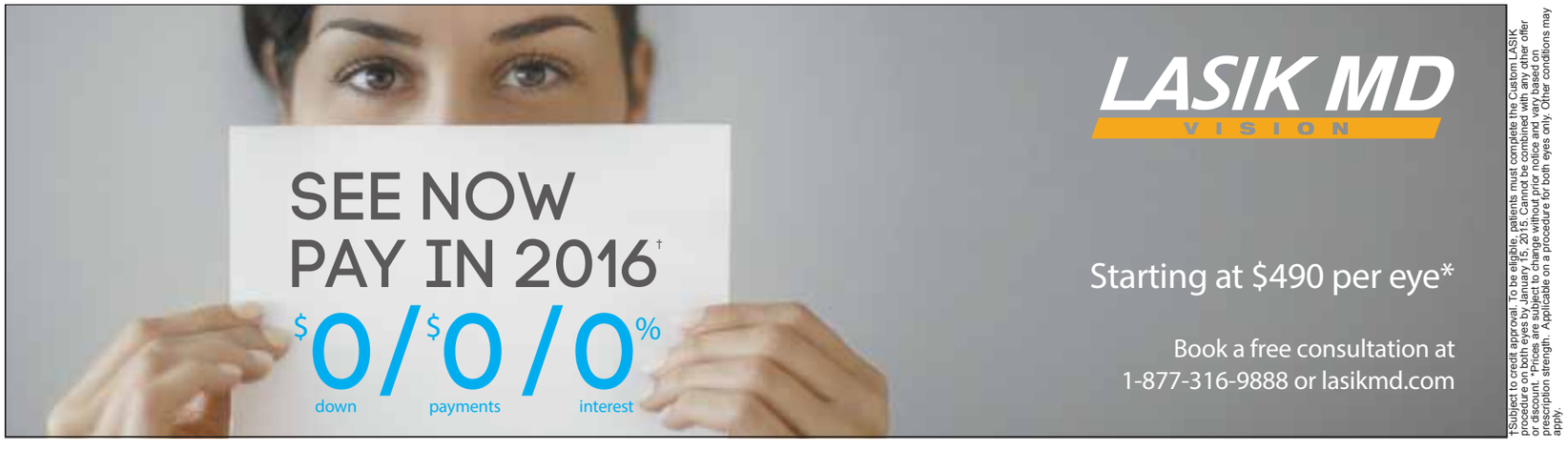
Serial is likely to run 12 episodes overall, but the producer cautions: "We don't know for sure, because we are still doing the reporting." AFP

Quoted

"We were not at all expecting so many people listening and writing about the show. And it's international."

Julie Snyder, senior producer of Serial

SCENE



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Cary's arrest tough on Czuchry

Television. Good Wife actor feels the stress of portraying lawyer facing drug charges

Front row from left: Jess Weixler, Matt Czuchry and Julianna Margulies in The Good Wife. JOJO WHILDEN/CBS

Mothers always know when something is wrong with their kids.

So when Matt Czuchry's character on The Good Wife was arrested on drug charges, his mother called him.

Czuchry said his mom noticed that he was bent over and seemed lower, "because of the weight of what was going on." She saw him channelling the stress that his character, lawyer Cary Agos, would be feeling by carrying himself differently.

Cary's storyline has been playing out this season with various wins and setbacks. His case is going to trial, and he's been offered a plea deal.

In a recent phone interview, Czuchry said the story arc has been "challenging and rewarding and exciting and difficult."

"Everything has been very taxing, in order to make these scenes believable and interesting, where the audience is really feeling what your character is going through," he said.

Sunday's episode was the final one before the show breaks until January — and it was a big one for Czuchry.

"You can kind of point to specific (episodes) where things fundamentally change with the characters ... and (there's an) overall ripple effect," he said. "I'll be interested to see what the audience thinks."

The Good Wife has a big cast with many moving parts. Series regulars include Julianna Margulies, who plays the lawyer-wife of a politician who spent time in prison for a sex scandal, Christine Baranski, Archie Panjabi, Alan Cumming, and Matthew Goode, with Chris Noth in a recurring role and Michael J. Fox among the guest stars.

Czuchry, who played Alexis Bledel's college boyfriend on Gilmore Girls, says no matter how many scenes he's had or hasn't had, he always sees at it as a learning opportunity.

"I just saw I was surrounded by great actors. Then, eventually, it became all the guest stars that would come in as well," Czuchry said. "I looked at that as 'This is an opportunity to grow and learn and get better at my craft.' That was an episode-by-episode thing, regardless of what material there was or what the storyline was. That was my goal, that was the focus, and that still is."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Everything has been very taxing, in order to make these scenes believable and interesting."

Matt Czuchry, on the current storyline for his character Cary Agos on The Good Wife

Ebooks

Unbroken

By. Laura Hillenbrand

Kindle/iBooks/Kobo

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

In this factual, but astonishing, life account of Louis Zamperini, we follow him first as a thieving rapscallion, then as an Olympic hopeful, then as a Second World War bombardier, and on through harrowing, yet uplifting adventures. Hillenbrand (Seabiscuit) relates it with considerable charm and not a whiff of embellishment, including photos as proof. No wonder it's being made into a movie.

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New facts in judgment of Chris McCandless

Books. Hiker's sister hopes revelations about their upbringing will help explain his fatal Alaskan odyssey

JENNIFER PRITTIE
jennifer.prittie@metronews.ca

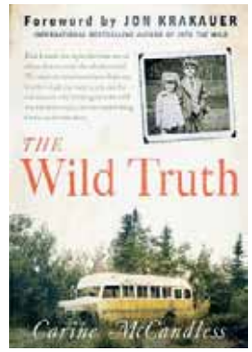
Chris McCandless took this self-portrait in front of the Fairbanks City bus off Alaska's Stampede Trail where he lived in the last months of his life. CONTRIBUTED

It's hard to find someone who doesn't have an opinion about Chris McCandless. You likely already know the bare bones of his story: Young hiker walks into the Alaskan wilderness with a .22-calibre rifle and a 10-pound bag of rice, determined to live off the land, test his own mettle and come to grips with some weighty questions. Several months later, his emaciated body is found by hunters in an abandoned bus, along with a diary of his increasingly futile efforts to survive.

What would drive anyone to take such a risk? Author Jon Krakauer did his best to answer that in a high-profile article for Outside magazine, then in the highly regarded 1996 book Into the Wild.

Chris, it transpired, was a top student and athlete from a well-off Washington, D.C.-area family who was poised for success, but instead chose to renounce material goods, a career and, at times, society. Upon graduating from university, he had donated his savings to charity, burned his cash and set out on the road. His family didn't hear from him again.

The book was notably even-handed, but it provoked a staggeringly wide range of interpretation. To this day, McCandless debates still run at fever pitch online. As Krakauer writes in the introduction to The Wild Truth, a new memoir by Chris's younger sister Carine, "A lot of people came away from reading Into the Wild without grasping why Chris did what he did. Lacking explicit facts, they concluded that he was merely self-absorbed, unforgivably cruel to his parents, mentally ill, suicidal and/or witless."



The piece of the story that was missing, Carine now explains, is that she and Chris grew up in a home rife with domestic and emotional abuse, all while being forced by their parents to maintain the facade of a harmonious Christian family. "I would definitely say that the psychological things that we went through were more devastating than the physical things," she says in an interview. "Much more so. Those are the things that drove Chris out."

She says she told Krakauer all this while he was researching his book, so he would better understand her brother, but made him promise to keep the details out of print. "I really wanted to spare my parents, because I really felt that they would learn — obviously, I expected them to learn from Chris's death, because I couldn't imagine how they could not."

They didn't learn, by her account, and instead maintained their position that the family life had been fine — one reason that Carine became more open about their upbringing over the years, she says. By the time of the 2007 film adaptation by Sean Penn, she, too, had essentially cut off contact with her parents. But her main motivation in going public has to do with the students she's met since Into the Wild was published. The book is required reading at many U.S. schools, and in going to speak at those schools, she found that students and teachers reacted differently when they knew the backstory. She realized being open about the abuse was helping others in the same situation.

Given that, maybe it's petty to wonder whether the new revelations will change the shape of the battle over Chris's legacy. "I just want people to have the facts. If it doesn't change their opinion about Chris, that's OK," she says. "The greatest inspiration and the greatest lessons come from truth, so I want that truth to be out there."

Quoted

"I just want people to have the facts. If it doesn't change their opinion about Chris, that's OK."

Carine McCandless, on the revelations in her memoir The Wild Truth

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Natalie Dormer ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The naked truth: Natalie wants GOT's nudity imbalance to be righted

The HBO hit Game of Thrones isn't known for modesty when it comes to nude scenes, but at least one of the show's stars thinks there's some imbalance in exactly what flesh is on display.

Simply put, Natalie Dormer wants to see more man meat next season. "Well, during the first season, (co-stars) Alfie (Allen), Richard (Madden) and several of the men got naked — although not all the way," Dormer, who also stars in the new Hunger Games movie, tells The Daily Beast.

"I think Thrones has been better than your average show with the equality, but they could definitely ramp it up. Absolutely." Should we start a petition or something?

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Gwyneth gives Martha a taste of her own recipe as war heats up

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

In possibly the most stuffy, Hamptons-bred move yet, Gwyneth Paltrow and Martha Stewart have apparently decided they're going to play out their ongoing feud with the WASP-iest weapon of all: clever recipes.

Last month, Stewart presented a selection of holiday pies in her magazine with the headline "Conscious Coupling," an obvious dig at Paltrow's awkward divorce announcement.

So Paltrow's camp has now fired back by posting a recipe on Goop for "Jailbird Cake," apparently a dig at Stewart's time behind bars.

"The folks at Goop know how to have some fun, too," a source tells People magazine. "If Martha served up the appetizer, the Jailbird Cake is just desserts."

But hey, at least if they keep fighting, we'll keep getting delicious dessert recipes.

Bette Midler

Midler says 'specialness has rubbed away' from the gay community

Gay community: Bette Midler loves you, but you're bringing her down. You're just not interesting enough anymore.

"The extreme characters you used to see in the Village in the old days, you just don't see them anymore," Midler tells the Advocate. "I really do miss them, because there was a feeling I used to get that people were expressing themselves in the most elaborate of ways. Now the (gay community) has kind of gone mainstream. It's sort of ordinary now, and a little bit of the specialness has rubbed away." Man, after Zachary Quinto's recent comments in Out, this is a great month for criticizing the gay community as a whole, isn't it?

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TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

Don't be a drifter when it comes to life — and your debt

Take charge. Sure, it takes a lot more work to pick up the paddles and refuse to go with the flow, but the payoffs are plenty

GAIL VAZ-OXLADE
Gail blogs daily at gailvazoxlade.com

It can be easy to not have a clear idea of who we are or what we want, but drum up the courage to decide what you really want in life. ISTOCK

Have you ever caught yourself thinking, "This just *cannot* go on!"? You know that wherever you are now is not where you want to be. You know it. Yet you do nothing to change.

People spend a lot of time thinking about how their lives could be different. They wish they could escape from whatever trap they feel caught in. Are you in debt? Are you working a crappy job? Is your home life just miserable? So, what are you going to do about it?

You could let your mind wander to a better place. You could wish. You could get angry ... at yourself, at your boss or co-workers, at you partner. Or maybe you just get sad.

If you've experienced this sense of not moving forward, this sense of drifting through your life, you're going to have to decide if this is what you want the rest of your life to be like — or *not*.

Young people often experience this sense of not heading where they want because they've done a lot of what they've done simply to meet the expectations of their parents, teachers, or other influencers.

There are the people who get married early because that's how it's done in their family or in their culture. There are the people who head into careers they have little interest in because someone else thought it was a good choice. And there are the people who buy a home, taking on debt they're not psychologically prepared to deal with, simply because "only losers rent."

While approval from the people you love and admire may be important to you, it's not enough to keep you happy. For that, you actually have to figure out what *you* want. You have to clearly see it. And then you have to do whatever it takes to make it so.

One of the biggest lessons I've learned on my life journey is that I can only be happy when I am being Gail. In my younger days, I worked hard to meet other people's expectations — and failed miserably — so I figured out that I'd rather be disliked for the person I am than for the person I'm pretending to be. I got real. And now if a body doesn't like me, oh well.

The tendency to be unclear about who we are and what we want goes for just about everything else in life. If you drifted into a marriage, drifted into a job or career, drifted into a new home, all because it was what came your way, it may be time to take your life back.

What are you passionate about? What do you love? What do you hate? What makes you happy? What makes you sad? Who inspires you, and why? What do you wish was different about your life?

Very often we send ourselves signals that can help us decide what it is we really want so we can get focused. It may be a book you read that strikes a cord or a conversation you have with a friend. Just as often, we push those signals aside without paying attention and we miss our cue.

Take heart. Another will come along. It may be a touch of envy that makes you sit up and pay attention to what you think is missing in your life.

It may be a daydream, an "I just wish I could" moment, that you can catch and study.

Or you may find yourself getting really P.O.'d because what you're doing is pointless and unsatisfying and you really hate Monday mornings.

If whatever you're doing used to work for you, but you've changed and it no longer does, you need to rethink what's really important. And if you feel you have to stick with whatever it is because you've invested so much energy in a particular direction that changing course now would be "a waste," give your head a shake. Don't be so settled, so habituated to your life, that you end up caught in the honey of a life you really don't want.

It's time to be brave, to figure out what you really want and then drum up the courage to make it so. Try. And try again. Talk about your dreams with your friends and family. Set a goal. Set another goal. Make the life you want.

Drifting is always about going with the current and it takes less effort than heading in a defined direction.

Just look at all the people who wish they weren't in debt! Sure, if you're drifting you'll keep moving, but you'll also be dependent on the direction of the current, and susceptible to the tides and eddies of life. If you're ready to pick up the paddles, you can go anywhere you want.

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I just called to say I love my co-worker

OFFICE SPACE
Eleni Deacon
life@metronews.ca

Your office has eyes. Don't be surprised if your announcement of at-work amour leads to a whole lot of, 'Yeah, we already knew.' ISTOCK

Dear Metro,

I've been dating one of my co-workers on the down-low for about three months, and we're getting sick of keeping things secret. Our relationship is stable and we both want to keep our behaviour super-professional at work. Is it a big deal if we let people know we're together?

— Wanna Scream My Love from the Mountaintops

Dear WSMLFM,

You may think you've been stealthy, but chances are your co-workers have already sniffed out your sitch. That kiss you stole in the photocopy room? Dave saw that. Your lingering eye contact across the meeting table? Everyone has noticed.

Still, before letting the doves out of their crates, check your company's policy on post-5 p.m. frenching. Some organizations require intra-office lovebirds to proffer written disclosure to HR — which you should obviously submit on perfumed paper with heart-dotted i's. Rulebooks aside, divulging your relationship to your colleagues should not be a big deal, but rather a chance to make it less so. This isn't your ticket to all-day PDA — it's an opportunity to normalize your situation. So long as you keep things clean, you shouldn't have to keep it to yourselves.

Dear Metro,

I've been working at a new company for about three weeks, and I'm finding the atmosphere around the office really quiet. Our space is open-concept, but it's so silent that I sometimes feel nervous to talk. I don't want to be disruptive — or goof off all day — but some friendly chit-chat would be nice. How can I liven the vibe without putting people off?

—Will Not Be Silenced

Dear WNBS,

This seems like a grass-is-greener conundrum. Those who work in a cacophonous hive of can't-shut-up colleagues would kill for an hour of pin-drop calm. But when typing fingers are the only sound in your office, it can get lonely.

Noise isn't just a distraction — it can also amp up your output. Conversational environments have more energy, which could boost the volume of work you deliver. When introducing some productive disruption, keep your comments on-task. Asking for help or sharing ideas will spark dialogue without annoying everyone with the mundane and unsolicited minutia of your personal life. You should also target the talkers, aiming your thoughts at fellow gabbers rather than broadcasting to the whole room. Offices aren't libraries, and some intermittent discussion should not get you shushed. Just be respectful: There's a difference between friendly chatter and incessant blather.

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You say potato, I say Sloppy Joe

Guaranteed family hit.
Here's a spuddy twist on the quick and easy dinner classic

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

Sloppy Joes have been around since the 1950s. Legend has it that a cook named Joe at a café in Sioux City, Iowa, added tomato sauce to his loose meat sandwiches and the "sloppy joe" was born!

Traditionally, the dish is prepared with ground beef, onions and tomato sauce and is served on a hamburger bun.

I stepped it up a notch by serving it over a baked potato and adding an array of garnishes to it.

I add a spicy diced sausage to enhance the flavour of the meat. If you have the time, you can always bake the potatoes at 450 F for about 45 minutes or just until tender for a crispier skin.

Guaranteed to be a No. 1 favourite with kids and families!

This recipe serves six. ROSE REISMAN

Ingredients

- 6 medium baking potatoes
- 1 cup finely diced onion
- 1 1/2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 12 oz extra-lean ground beef
- 4 oz spicy beef sausage, casings removed, diced
- 2 cups tomato pasta sauce
- 1 1/2 tsp dried basil
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 2 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh basil

Garnish
- Choice of grated cheddar, light sour cream, chopped tomatoes and cilantro or basil

Nutritional information

Per serving

- **Calories.** 435
- **Carbohydrates.** 56.6 g
- **Fibre.** 6.8 g
- **Protein.** 29.3 g
- **Total fat.** 14.2 g
- **Saturated fat.** 4.7 g
- **Cholesterol.** 69 mg
- **Sodium.** 273 mg

Directions

1. In a medium saucepan, lightly coated with cooking spray, add the onion, garlic and oil. Sauté for 5 minutes or until the onion begins to brown. Add the beef and sausage and cook for 5 minutes or until no longer pink, breaking apart the meat with a wooden spoon.

2. Add the tomato sauce, dried basil and chili powder. Cover and simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Garnish with Parmesan cheese and fresh basil.

3. Meanwhile, clean the baking potatoes, leaving the skin on. Pierce the potatoes with a fork throughout. Microwave on High for 8-12 minutes, or until tender. Cut in half lengthwise and divide sloppy Joe mixture over top. Add garnishes of your choice.

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SPORTS 4

Ticats laugh all the way to the Banks

East Division final.
Punt returner scores pair of TDs as Hamilton beats Montreal to get into Grey Cup game

The Tiger-Cats' Brandon Banks slips a tackle en route to scoring one of his two punt-return touchdowns against the Alouettes during the East Division final on Sunday in Hamilton. GARY YOKOYAMA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Brandon Banks and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats made the Montreal Alouettes eat their words Sunday.

Banks scored a playoff-tying two punt return TDs to lead Hamilton back to the Grey Cup with a 40-24 East Division final win over the Montreal Alouettes. Banks had five punt returns for a playoff-record 226 yards and had another 78-yard TD return negated by a penalty.

The victory was especially gratifying for Banks and the Ticats, who remained silent last week after Montreal players Duron Carter, Bear Woods and S.J. Green all boldly predicted their team would win. The assurances came despite the Alouettes losing 29-15 here Nov. 8 that earned Hamilton first in the East and home field for the division final.

Banks was a multi-threat, adding three carries for 35 yards and four catches for 33 yards. He finished with 294 total yards and played a major role in making Montreal choke on its words.

"Of course, we won," Banks said. "They guaranteed a win, didn't they so (they) can eat those words.

"It is what it is."

Defensive back Brandon Stewart, who was also centred out by Green last week, relished having the last laugh but said Green was gracious in defeat.

"He came up to me after the game and said, 'Good game; go win it in B.C.," Stewart said. "There's always respect, I mean he's a great receiver ... but we're going to B.C. and they're not.

"That's all that matters."

Banks' 88-yard return at 10:55 of the fourth quarter was nothing short of amazing.

The five-foot-seven, 153-pound speedster — whose nickname is Speedy — was completely surrounded by Montreal defenders after corralling Sean Whyte's boot but somehow found a seam, then sprinted along the sidelines to put Hamilton ahead 37-24.

"He did a better job than our cover team," Montreal head coach Tom Higgins said. "I think we might have missed 13 tackles on one play, probably a guy had two shots at him."

Hamilton's Kent Austin is off to his third straight Grey Cup game as a CFL head coach. He won the 2007 contest in his rookie season on the sidelines with Saskatchewan. He left for the NCAA ranks after that season before returning north to Hamilton last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

East Division final

Tiger-Cats	Alouettes
40	24

West Division final

Stamps punch ticket to Grey Cup

Calgary can cap a stellar season with a Grey Cup, after beating the Edmonton Eskimos 43-18 in Sunday's West Division final.

The Stampeders take on the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the CFL's championship game Sunday in Vancouver.

Calgary quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell threw a pair of touchdown strikes to Eric Rogers, completed scoring passes to Marquay McDaniel and Jon Cornish and ran the ball in for a major of his own.

Cornish scored his second major of the game on a two-yard run late in the fourth quarter. The CFL's leading rusher totalled 54 yards on 14 carries, but made his biggest impact on the game as a receiver. Cornish totalled 120 yards on four catches and one them for a touchdown.

Mitchell, a 24-year-old Texan, won his first career playoff start, throwing for 336 yards and four touchdowns without an interception.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Stampeders' Jon Cornish scored a pair of touchdowns on Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Packers raid Vikings at home

Green Bay running back Eddie Lacy breaks through a tackle from the Vikings' Harrison Smith during the Packers' 24-21 win over Minnesota on Sunday. Scan the image with your Metro News app for a roundup of NFL action. HANNAH FOSLIEN/GETTY IMAGES

NHL

Leafs left to replace blue-liner Polak

Roman Polak is out with a left foot injury likely for "a while," according to the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Replacing him won't be easy.

Polak was to have an MRI on his left foot Sunday, and while there were no updates, it's possible he suffered either a bad sprain or a bone fracture.

He was second to Dion Phaneuf in ice time among Leafs blue-liners, first among NHL defenders in hits and top five in blocked shots.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MLS playoffs

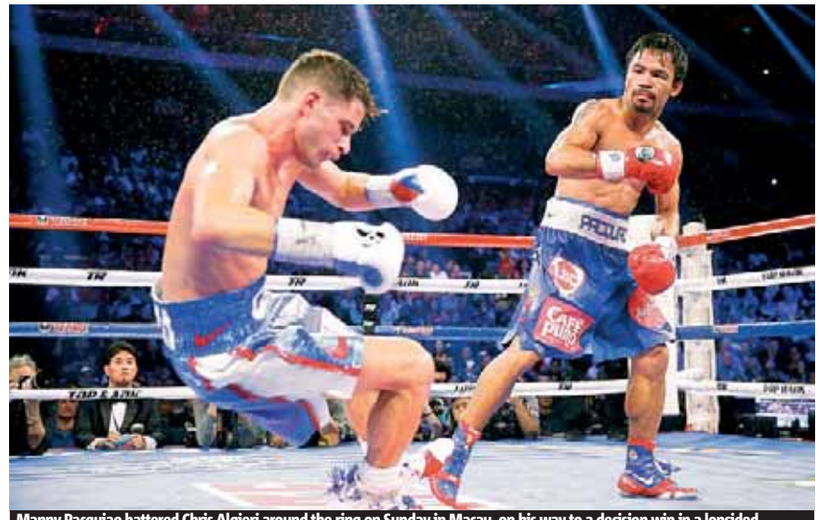
Sarvas gives L.A. first-leg victory over Seattle

Marcelo Sarvas scored in the 52nd minute, and the LA Galaxy opened the Western Conference championship with a 1-0 victory over the Seattle Sounders on Sunday in Carson, Calif.

In Harrison, N.J., Jermaine Jones finished a counter-attack in the 85th minute with a tap-in and gave the New England Revolution a 2-1 victory Sunday in the first leg of the Eastern Conference finals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is Floyd ready to go mano a mano with Manny yet?

Boxing. Rumbles of dream fight return after Filipino's convincing win over Algieri in China



Manny Pacquiao battered Chris Algieri around the ring on Sunday in Macau, on his way to a decision win in a lopsided welterweight title fight. Two ringside judges scored the bout 119-103 while the third had it 120-102. CHRIS HYDE/GETTY IMAGES

Manny Pacquiao is done taking the high road, tired of pretending he doesn't care.

At long last he has Floyd Mayweather Jr. right where he wants him. And this time he's not about to let him slip away without a fight.

"I think it's time to say something," Pacquiao said Sunday after dispatching Chris Algieri in convincing fashion in Macau. "The fans deserve that fight. It's time to make that fight happen."

Whether it actually happens, of course, depends on Mayweather agreeing to sign on the bottom line. And for the better part of five years now, Mayweather has given one excuse after another when it comes to making the one fight boxing fans really want.

He thought Pacquiao might be on steroids, and refused to deal with his promoter. When Pacquiao got knocked out by Juan Manuel Marquez, Mayweather said it wasn't worth his time to even mention his name.

But now Mayweather may be boxed into a corner for a number of reasons and from a number of angles. The pressure will be on to make the fight sometime in the first half of next year or forever draw the wrath of the fans who contribute to his massive paycheques.

And suddenly the prospect of boxing's richest fight ever doesn't seem like such a far-fetched fantasy after all.

"If boxing is to be considered a major sport then the fight has to happen. The nonsense needs to cease. There are no excuses anymore," promoter Bob Arum said.

Mayweather opened the door ever so slightly to the fight after his win over Marcos Maidana in September, saying that he might be open to the possibility of a fight.

"If the Pacquiao fight happens, it happens," Mayweather said. "You can ask the same questions and get the same answers. I call my own shots."

A number of obstacles remain to actually making a fight, though, not least is Mayweather's willingness to risk his unblemished mark near the end of his career. There are issues with promoters, TV contracts, purse splits and even legacies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Answer the telephone, it's as simple as that."

Fight promoter Bob Arum when asked what it would take to finally get a Pacquiao-Mayweather showdown.

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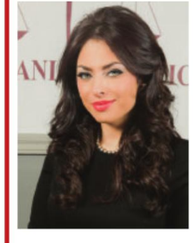

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Don't be too proud to accept a gift from a friend. Not only do you need what they want to give you but accepting it will make them feel good about themselves as well.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
A plan to boost your earning power may be tempting but if it means doing something that leaves you feeling uncomfortable with yourself then maybe you should give it a miss.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If others expect you to act in ways you do not enjoy then obviously something is wrong. You don't have to do what they want you to do.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You have been pushing yourself hard of late and if you start this week the way you finished the last one it won't be long before you break down in some way.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
What you want to do and what you are expected to do may be different things but if you are smart you will find ways to mix duty and pleasure.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your thoughts may be far away but the demands of your current situation will soon bring you back to reality.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There may be certain patterns of behaviour that you would like to overcome but you have got to be sensible about it. You can't change overnight.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You need to be careful as the new week begins because if you allow yourself to be taken in by soft words or a pretty face you could find later on that you have been duped.

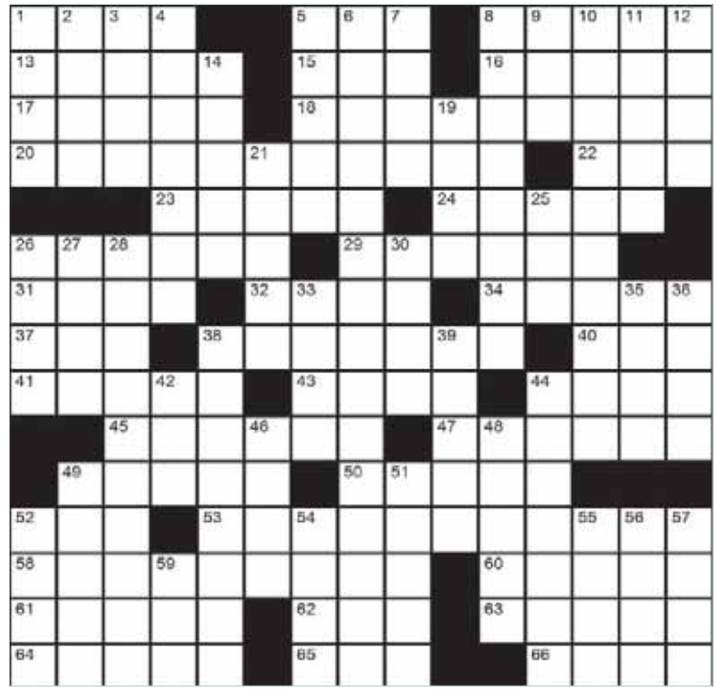
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
No one doubts your hard work but even a Sag needs to slow down once in a while. Venus in your birth sign urges you match each hour of work with an hour of relaxation.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't worry too much about the purpose of what you are doing — if it makes you happy that is purpose.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
There are plenty of reasons why it might be wise to keep your head down and stay quiet but opportunities to have your say come all too rarely and you are not going to let this one pass by.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
It may be tempting to confront someone giving you a hard time but the planets warn you should leave it until later in the week.

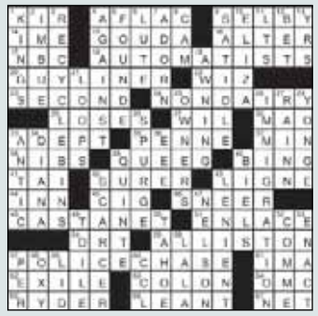
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Daredevil Mr. Wallenda's
5. Mudbath locale
8. Type of religious belief
13. Conform
15. Not him
16. Swedish actress Ms. Stevens
17. "I Believe ___ ___" by Kylie Minogue
18. Canuck family tree series, "__ in the Attic"
20. Visit to the hair salon reason: 2 wds.
22. Mints brand, __ tac
23. Deafening, WWI-era novel by Canadian author Frances __
24. Dance style
26. Non-__ organization
29. Ray of "Good-Fellas" (1990)
31. Gem type
32. __ Village, in Hamilton
34. Celebrity roast host
37. UK award since 1917
38. Land bridge
40. ms. lang's
41. "Tearin' Up My Heart" quintet
43. Carpentry tool
44. Vocationally vacate
45. Wobble
47. __ up, as cars
49. Irritate
50. Verse, to Baudelaire
52. Previously, to Shakespeare
53. __ de Montreal (Montreal bug museum)
58. New Brunswick port on Chaleur Bay
60. Actress Lisa
61. Internet commerce, _-__
62. Pastureland
63. E.C. __ (Popeye creator)
64. 1989 for Taylor Swift = ___ _
65. Vase
66. Prairie prov.

Down
1. Depilatory brand
2. "____ idea." (Really?)
3. Send to the boxing canvas
4. Internet music service
5. Mr. Cassidy (1970s heartthrob)
6. Classroom tool: 2 wds.
7. __ enemies
8. Disagreements
9. 'Persist' suffix
10. "Knocked me down and _ __ __ __..." - Red Rider, "Human Race"
11. Opera __ (Opera style that is serious)
12. __. _, "Happy Days" mom
14. "__ Frutti" by Little Richard
19. Overseas currency
21. Promises
25. Valerie Harper co-star ...her monogram
26. Me, she or him [abbr.]
27. Wipes
28. One way to be a good Canadian: 3 wds.
30. Doctrines
33. Raison d'__
35. Actress Ms. McClurg
36. Approximated, for short
38. Canadian Rockies sight in Alberta, Columbia __
39. Disconcerted
42. PBS funding org.
44. Questions
46. Oversee
48. Mr. Epps'
49. Where Minos was king
51. Liner's lieu
52. Mr. Scrooge, to pals
54. "Star Trek" character
55. "Young Frankenstein" (1974) role
56. Irish actress Ms. O'Connor's
57. Gospel guy
59. Driver's proof, e.g.

Friday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

6		3				7		1
	9		8		7		6	
1				9				4
	4			8			1	
		1				3		
	5			6			2	
4				7				9
	6		9		1		3	
9		8				6		7

Friday's Sudoku

5	2	1	6	4	8	7	9	3
6	9	4	3	7	2	8	5	1
3	7	8	1	5	9	4	6	2
8	1	2	5	9	6	3	4	7
4	6	5	7	8	3	2	1	9
9	3	7	4	2	1	5	8	6
1	5	3	2	6	4	9	7	8
2	4	9	8	1	7	6	3	5
7	8	6	9	3	5	1	2	4

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